THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) After the release of the draft modalities on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) on 8 February, 2008, the negotiations on these modalities commenced from 18 February 2008 at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Under the Rules negotiations, the Chairman's draft text of 30 November, 2007 is also being discussed. The important issues that are going to come up for negotiations are the modalities in Agriculture, NAMA, Services and Rules. The Government has specific negotiating position in all these areas. Any flexibility to be shown by India is contingent upon the flexibilities required from the round itself addressing our trade interests, domestic sensibilities and honour the development dimension of the Doha mandate.

Non-cooperation of Pakistan in export and import

†645. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is not co-operating with India in the business of export and import;

(b) whether a huge stock of goods is lying in the loading M.T.R. shed in Amritsar for export;

(c) the loss incurred to the Indian traders due to it during the last two years; and

(d) the details of effective measures being taken by Government to maintain the trade balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No instances of Non-cooperation by Pakistan has come to the notice of Customs at Land Customs Station, Attari Road, where only export of goods to Pakistan is allowed and at Rail Cargo, Amritsar, where both imports and exports between India and Pakistan are allowed. No stock of goods for export to Pakistan is lying in Loading MTR Shed.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Subsidy to sugar exports

646. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leading global sugar producers have joined hands and approached the World Trade Organisation (WTO) asking the multilateral body to seek details from India on subsidy to exporters at a time when the country is set to double exports of sweetener; and

(b) if so, the details of response of Government thereto and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) At a regular meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held in Geneva on

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

21.11.2007, Australia and Thailand had asked for more information on the subsidies provided by India to its sugar exporters.

(b) It has been emphasized that most of India's sugarcane growers are small and marginal farmers and in view of the mounting cane price arrears, Government has taken various measures, including an export assistance scheme, in order to ensure timely payments to the growers. Government has been maintaining that the measures taken are in consonance with India's WTO commitments.

India's place in global flower bazaar

647. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite having the world's largest (117,000 hectares) acreage under flower cultivation, India remains a marginal player in the global flower bazaar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cause of poor exports is infrastructural deficiencies as the existing systems of handling, processing and transportation are not what will help flowers to survive; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to revamp the domestic flower marketing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India's share in the world floriculture trade is negligible. However India is not having the largest acreage under flower cultivation in the world. The area under flower cultivation in the country in 2006-07 was 142,000 hectares.

(b) Infrastructural deficiency is one of the reasons for low floriculture exports.

(c) To enhance production and productivity of horticultural produce including flowers the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.*, "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" and Technology Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE) for holistic development of horticulture sector including floriculture duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing with the active participation of all stake holders. Government has also approved setting up of Flower Auction Centres at Bangalore, Mumbai, Noida & Kolkata for providing marketing platform for trading of flowers.

Poor ranking due to procedural requirments

648. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks poorly in doing business with lots of procedural requirments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it takes 1420 days to enforce a contract in India which is more than double of Brazil 616 stage, 3.5 times China's 406 stage and more than 5 times Russia's 281 days;